

AfriCap (WASH-African Water Association Capacity Building Program)



African Water Association

Field visit to a water treatment plant during the Celebration of International Water Day 2016, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Goal:

Seek accelerated improvements in WASH service access through more intense and systematic knowledge sharing under the coordination of AfWA, a recognized regional leading organization.

Increase AfWA capacity to fulfill its mandate to improve management, dissemination of knowledge on the African WASH sector, policy advocacy for WASH and related resource allocation, and the rapid transfer of successful regional models in WASH practice.

Life of Program:

2016-2019

Total Funding:

USD 2,000,000

Financed by USAID/ West Africa's Regional Economic Growth and Resilience Office (REGO) program

Geographic Focus:

West Africa

Implementing Partners:

- African Water Association (AfWA)
- West Africa Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene (USAID WA-WASH)
- African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW)
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)
- African water utilities
- West African water laboratories

Background:

The final Millennium Development Goals (MDG) evaluation report showed global progress in drinking water access, yet challenges remain in achieving sanitation goals. The UN Millennium Water Group pointed out that the current pace of progress is still too slow to reach the goals in Africa where very few countries had met the targets. Additionally, the long-term sustainability of current achievements is not guaranteed. With the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), solving WASH-related challenges in Africa will require reaching a wider audience with lessons learned from best practices. This approach will hopefully contribute to addressing systemic issues with sustainability and indiscriminate approaches that plague the WASH sector in West Africa.

Program Description:

The African Water Association (AfWA) is a continental water and sanitation organization that brings together drinking water production and distribution companies, sanitation services companies, and regulators in African countries to share knowledge and best practices. The AfriCap program will be carried out in the following components:

Component I: Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening of AfWA

AfWA will be strengthened by the recruitment of new staff, the adoption of procedures manuals to streamline operations, and staff training sessions. Effective program execution and control structure will be established with well-defined staff roles and responsibilities, along with a robust monitoring and reporting system. The 2018-2022 AfWA Strategic Business Plan will be developed. Gender mainstreaming will be fostered through the establishment of national WASH professional women associations.

Component II: Develop and Implement Knowledge Sharing in West Africa

AfWA's knowledge management and public awareness function will be enhanced by the reinforcement of AfWA's leadership role on regional coordination, knowledge management, information sharing, and capacity building of WASH stakeholders. AfWA will use its network and convening power to disseminate best practice documents, white papers, and knowledge pieces to a wide audience. AfWA will foster learning in the sector through virtual learning events and by funding Master's student research projects.

Component III: Develop the Capacity of Water Quality Laboratories

Laboratories in West Africa, with USEPA support, will be supported to attain certification and at least six laboratories will be engaged in peer-to-peer learning partnerships with laboratories from Burkina Faso and Ghana. Training sessions on analytical techniques, protocols, and procedures will be held.

Program Objectives:

- Build AfWA capacity to formulate, coordinate, adapt and harmonize WASH policies across West Africa;
- Develop and implement improved knowledge sharing and public awareness in the WASH sector; and,
- Develop the capacity of drinking water quality laboratories in West Africa with the support of USEPA.